

A Bill Entitled "Revenue."

We are indebted to E. Cantwell Esq., clerk of the House of Commons, for a copy of the above Bill as reported by Mr. Fries from the Revenue Committee in the House. We propose to notice some of its leading features, in which any notable change has been made from that to the last session.

The first 27 sections of the bill relate to the appointment of district boards of valuation, state how property shall be assessed for taxation and what shall be exempt—how listed etc. etc., and how taxes on such property shall be collected and accounted for. The bill provides first however for an assessment to be made by boards of valuation appointed by the several County Courts at the first time held after the 1st day of July 1899, and at the same time every four years thereafter.

The only new feature which we particularly remark, is the erection of county boards of valuation, to whom the district boards shall return their lists, and the county boards shall review, hear appeals and generally rectify mistakes or unequal valuations in different districts. The county boards of valuation to be composed of the Justices of the Peace acting with the different district boards. These county boards shall meet at the Court House on the second Monday of January, after the appointment of the district boards to act upon the lists returned by said district boards. "If, in the opinion of the county board of valuation, any tract or tracts of land or town lots, have been assessed at too low a value, they shall make lists of such tracts or lots, and set them in at least two conspicuous places in the court house, at the time of their adjournment. After they shall have examined and compared the lists, hearing the complaints of all who may feel themselves aggrieved by the valuation of their property, the board shall post the list as above required, and adjourn until the first Monday in April following, when they shall again meet at the court house, hearing the complaints of all who may feel themselves aggrieved by their former action, or by the original valuation, and decide each case as to them may appear right, and from this decision there shall be no appeal.

"The taxes shall be annually collected and paid:—First, to the sheriffs, on all property and subjects of taxation required to be listed, as per schedule A.; secondly, to the sheriffs, on all property and subjects of taxation which are not required to be listed, but an account of which is to be rendered to the sheriffs, as per schedule B.; thirdly, to the clerks of courts, and to the treasurer of the State, as per schedule C."

The taxes upon the various articles of property embraced in schedule A., may generally be said to be raised 25 per cent.—thus the tax on real estate is twenty cents on the hundred dollars, instead of fifteen cents as formerly—the poll tax eighty cents. The liquor tax is thus modified:

"17. Every distiller or maker of spirituous liquors, wines or cordials three cents on each gallon made by him and sold in this State.
18. Every person that brings into this State spirituous liquors, wines or cordials for sale, six cents on every gallon brought in any vessel other than bottles, and six cents per bottle if brought in bottles. When any non-resident of the State shall sell and deliver to any person in this State, spirituous liquors, wines or cordials, the buyer shall list the same and pay the above tax.

We quote the first three sections of schedule B, and while doing so we must take the liberty of saying that we can hardly think they could have been designed for revenue, since they virtually amount to a prohibition.—We do not care to argue the abstract question of the right or wrong of excises, managements, theatres, concerts or other amusements. Some amusement people will have, and these are much better than some others to which they might be driven. Any business that is fit to be licensed, is fit to be pursued, and putting an unreasonable tax on it makes it neither more nor less moral, but may deprive the treasury of some money. The sections in question are as follows:—

"1. Every company of circus riders, or exhibitors of collections of animals, seventy-five dollars for each county in which they shall perform or exhibit for reward. Every separate exhibition, known as a 'side show,' which cannot be seen without the payment of a separate charge, ten dollars for each county in which it is exhibited for reward.
2. Every company of stage or theatrical players, or persons performing feats of strength or agility, or exhibiting natural or artificial objects, fifty dollars for each county in which they exhibit for reward.
3. Every company of itinerant singers, or performers on musical instruments, or dancers, or itinerant companies who otherwise exhibit on the public stage, ten dollars for each county in which they exhibit for reward.

We add the following paragraphs of the same schedule as they may be of interest to our readers:—

"6. Every agency of a bank incorporated out of the State, five hundred dollars for each county in which it does business.
7. Every money or exchange broker, private banker, or agent of a foreign broker or banker, three hundred dollars for each county in which he has an office or place of business.
8. Every express company, ten dollars for each county in which it proposes to deliver packages.
9. Every public billiard table one hundred and twenty-five dollars. Every private billiard table twenty-five dollars.
10. Every public bowling alley, whether called a nine-pin or ten-pin alley, or by any other name, ten dollars for each county in which it is exhibited for reward.
11. Every live stock or place where horses and vehicles are kept for hire, twenty-five dollars.
12. Every licensed retailer of spirituous liquors, wines or cordials, thirty dollars. In addition to this, each retailer shall list the amount of liquors, wines and cordials as required in schedule A, of this act, and pay the tax there imposed.
13. Every auctioneer, on all merchandise, one-half per cent. on the total amount of sales, subject to all the regulations and exemptions set forth in the chapter Revised Code, entitled 'Auctioneers and Auctioneering.'
14. Every merchant, merchant tailor, jeweller, grocer, druggist, apothecary, produce dealer, commission merchant, factor, producer, broker, and every other trader, who as principal, or agent for another, carries on the business of buying and selling goods, wares or merchandise of whatever name or description, and who is not taxed on his purchases in some other paragraph of this schedule, one-half of one per cent. on the total amount of his purchases, whether made in or out of the State, for cash or on credit. Provided, That the value of articles which are received in payment of goods sold at the usual place of business shall not be included in the amount of purchases.
15. Every dealer in ready-made clothing (ready-made garments for males) one and one-half per cent. on total amount of purchases.
16. Every person who for himself, or as agent for another, sells patent medicines or nostrums, ten per cent. on amount of sales.

We would publish the bill or its new clauses in full, but that it has yet to be acted upon, and may be very much modified. We lay the above portions before our readers that they may form some idea of what is proposed to be done.

We are indebted to Hon. Warren Winslow for a copy of an "Address on the Northwest, delivered before the American Geographical and Statistical Society, at New York, December 2, 1898, by Isaac I. Stevens."

By the Northwest, Major Stevens (kindly remembered here from his connection with the different surveys of our River and Bar) means the Northern portion of the Pacific slope—Washington and Oregon Territories. As Governor of Washington Territory, as having made an exploration across the Rocky Mountains, with a view to ascertaining the facilities for the construction of a Railroad, Mr. Stevens' opportunities of judging have been equal, if not superior to those of any other person in the country, and his lecture is marked by that real, living interest, which attaches to the remarks of one who speaks of his own knowledge, and does not merely retail the observation of others. Mr. Stevens is now delegate in Congress from Washington Territory. He favors the construction of a Pacific Railroad to Puget Sound.

We anticipate much pleasure from a full perusal of this interesting address.

The telegraphic item, to the effect that payment had been refused upon a hundred dollar U. S. draft, presented last week at the Treasury in Washington, is emphatically contradicted by the Union, which paper stamps the report as ridiculous and wholly devoid of even the shadow of truth.

The Senate of the United States still appears inclined to devote considerable time to the discussion of a Pacific Railroad and different routes for the same. We think that between these different schemes the project will fall through.

Mr. Mason, from the committee on foreign relations in the Senate, has introduced a bill authorizing the President of the United States to use the Army and Navy of the United States in certain cases, and under certain circumstances.

The extravagant Pension Bill will fall dead in the Senate.

In the Senate, on Thursday, various reports were made upon private claims or matters of minor importance.

Mr. Kennedy introduced a bill to establish a national line of steamships between certain ports in the United States and Great Britain. The bill authorizes the Postmaster General to contract with Ambrose W. Thompson for the service, which is to be in two divisions—the first division consisting of six steamships, running alternately from Portland, Boston, New York and Philadelphia—the second consisting of eight steamships, running from Baltimore, Norfolk, Charleston, Savannah and New Orleans to Southampton. It will hardly succeed.

Mr. Seward introduced a bill in addition to the acts which prohibit the slave trade.

Mr. Simmons moved to take up the resolutions submitted by him on the 23d of December, in relation to a plan for raising revenue sufficient to meet the ordinary expenses of the government by the imposition of specific instead of ad valorem duties.

Some discussion arose on the Pacific Railroad Bill, which Mr. Douglas hoped would be adopted as reported by the Committee, leaving the selection of the route for after-consideration.

In the House several executive communications, furnishing information asked for, were received, but not of any peculiar interest or importance.

A resolution was adopted requesting the Secretary of the Navy to furnish information about Chaplains to the Navy since 1813, the religious denominations to which each person so appointed was attached—whether required by any Navy regulation or otherwise to read prayers, etc. It would appear from this resolution that it is believed by the House that one particular denomination—the Protestant Episcopal—has had a sort of monopoly of the Chaplains of the Navy.

The Naval Appropriation Bill was referred to the Naval Committee with instructions to inquire what reductions in expenditure could be made without detriment to the public service.

The balance of the session was occupied in the discussion of a Bill codifying the existing revenue laws of the United States.

Paul Morphy, etc.

The interest that the newspapers and the public generally take in matters which, in themselves, are wholly unimportant, is very considerable, and might fairly be pronounced remarkable. It is a matter of some doubt in our minds whether most attention has been given to Paul Morphy's chess triumphs—to the terrible contest going on in India, to the rise and fall of the markets, or to the various phases of European diplomacy as calculated to affect our own country. Upon the whole, we think that "Little Paul" rather has the advantage of Louis Napoleon or Sir Colin Campbell, of Nana Sahib or Baron Rothschild, and the quotations from the *Cafe de la Regence* are copied and read with almost as much interest, and in a much wider circle than the Trade Circulars of the first Liverpool or London houses. A sufficient number of words have been telegraphed about Morphy's chess exploits to buy him a house and grounds during his life, or build him a glorious monument after his death, his tombstone being in the form of a chess-board, with the pieces thereon in marble, as well as the slab itself.

And "what for?" Why should we not take an interest in such things, or in anything in the world that may tend to abstract us for a few moments from the constant drag of daily life. It is better to watch the fancied fight between the ivory or wooden-headed kings, queens and knights of the chess-board, than to become wearied and sickened with watching too closely, or too eagerly participating in, the stern contests belonging to the real battle of life.

However, young Morphy has had a few contests with Professor Anderssen, the great champion of the German chess-board, which resulted in Anderssen winning the first game; the second game being drawn, and two subsequent games being won by Mr. Morphy. The first who wins seven games wins the match. There is no money bet, and nobody outside will bet either, as it is generally conceded that Mr. Morphy will win the match.

PRIZE.—About 12 o'clock last night a frame negro house belonging to Mrs. R. H. Cowan, and next East of her dwelling, Fourth and Chestnut Streets, was discovered to be on fire, and by the time the alarm was given, the whole building was in a bright blaze. It would appear that some of the servants had left a light burning up in the garret room of the house which caught on the roof or sides, as the fire seems to have started there.

Fortunately the night was remarkably calm, otherwise very heavy loss of property might have occurred—as it was, the fire did not spread beyond the house in which it originated. The servants lost most of their things, we saw some bedding tumbled out in a blaze. Mrs. Cowan's residence was at one time threatened, and the back piazza was a good deal blistered, but owing to the extreme calmness, no further injury was done. Mr. Morris, next East, was also in danger, but the same circumstance also favored him.

We do not know the amount of loss. We should not think it could exceed five hundred dollars, if it comes to that much.

The Washington "States" asserts that Robles, the agent in the movement which dispossessed Zuloaga and put Miramon into the Presidency of Mexico, is, and has been, the instrument of the French and Spanish Governments in their designs upon Mexico—that, in plain terms, it is proposed to erect a Mexican monarchy, with a Spanish Prince upon the throne.

We think the "States" is rather given to "sensations." When the government of Louis Napoleon becomes so weak-minded as to risk the material, commercial prosperity of France, so essential to its own stability, in order to put a Bourbon or Orleans Prince upon the throne of Mexico, we will be ready to expect anything. We don't believe a word of it now. A Mexican throne for a race that Louis Napoleon himself has supplanted! Not much of it.

HOMICIDE.—We learn that on yesterday the 14th instant, a negro man named Mingo, stabbed another named Sam, killing him almost instantly. The affair occurred in this county on or near the North East River, some thirty miles from Wilmington, and near the line between Holly Shelter and South Washington Districts. Both negroes belonged to Mr. John Watkins of this county. We have not been able to learn any further circumstances connected with the affair, nor do we know whether Mingo has been arrested or not.

The Danville Connection.

A telegraphic dispatch, received by us on Saturday evening from a gentleman of this town now in Raleigh, informs us of the defeat of the Danville Connection Bill in the House by a vote of 37 yeas to 65 nays—majority against the Bill 28. The adverse vote of 65 would give a clear majority of ten against the Bill, supposing every vote to be cast. We regard the passage of the Bill at this session as an impossibility. It is losing rather than gaining ground.

The Union of England & Wales, proprietors of the above paper, has been dissolved, and the publication will be carried on by Mr. Alpaugh alone. Mr. Brier returns from the proprietorship, and immediately from the editorship, owing to the state of his health.

The *Sentinel* is published at Winston, Forsyth county, is a sterling Democratic journal, and a good newspaper. It is, and is no mean commendation, well printed—it has a living, prosperous look that we like to see. We trust that it may continue to prosper. We feel assured that, under Col. Alpaugh's management it will deserve to do so.

INCREASE IN THE NAVY.—We learn from the Washington *States* that the House Committee on Naval Affairs has authorized Mr. Winslow to report a bill adding twenty additional pursers, eleven surgeons and fifteen assistant surgeons to the number already existing in the Navy.

This increase, the *States* says, is much needed, and will doubtless be made by Congress. A bill to increase the Marine force will also be reported shortly, and will probably be adopted.

North Carolina Legislature.

[Reported Expressly for the Journal.]

RALEIGH, Jan. 12, 1899.

SENATE.—A resolution offered by Mr. Humphrey, to commence afternoon sessions after Saturday next, was postponed till the 13th inst.

On motion of Mr. McDowell, the message of the Governor on the report of the Literary Fund was referred to the committee on Finance.

A resolution by Mr. Thomas, instructing the Judiciary committee to consider the expediency of amending the laws relative to licensing the sale of spirituous liquors, was adopted.

Mr. Edney introduced a bill to protect the labor of mechanics.

A number of private bills were introduced by Messrs. Pool, Humphrey and Gorrell.

Mr. Miller moved to reconsider the vote by which was defeated yesterday the *Coalfields Bill*.

The reconsideration was resisted by Messrs. Cowper and Donald, and supported by Messrs. Bledsoe, Miller, Edney, McDonald, Thomas and Cherry.

The motion was adopted by a vote of 27 to 13.

On motion of Mr. Bledsoe, the further consideration of the bill was postponed and made the special order for Wednesday next.

The bill to amend the Constitution so as to establish the *ad valorem* system of taxation, being the special order, was discussed by its author, for nearly two hours, in what is regarded as a very able speech.

Mr. Gorrell offered an amendment, providing for a free and open convention to amend the Constitution. At this point the Senate adjourned.

In the House, to-day, the following bills were introduced: Mr. Dockery, a bill to authorize and require the County Courts to tax certain articles, not otherwise taxed, in payment of Railroad taxes.

Mr. Leak, a bill to require a bond from Sheriffs for collection of Railroad tax.

One or two private bills relating to the Western part of the State complete the list.

The House went into committee of the whole, Mr. Badham in the chair. Mr. Settle spoke in favor of the Danville Connection for over an hour. Mr. Dorris then spoke against it, and Mr. Settle rejoined, and the committee rose.

RALEIGH, Jan. 13th, 1899.

Mr. Humphrey introduced a bill to incorporate the Newbern Gas Light Company.

Mr. Straughan, a bill for the protection of the interests of the State in the Cape Fear & Deep River Navigation Company, or for the surrender of said interests.

Mr. Lane, a bill for the management of insolvent estates.

Mr. Bledsoe moved to make the bill to recharter the Bank of the State the special order for Thursday next.

Mr. Houston, a resolution instructing the committee on finance to investigate the policy of issuing State bonds payable in New York. Mr. H. stated his object to be to vindicate the Public Treasurer from the charges of Mr. Turner, and to force upon him an opportunity of doing so, as he seemed desirous of shirking the matter. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The bill to establish the *ad valorem* system of taxation was made the special order for Tuesday next.

The bill to amend the charter of the Western N. C. R. Road was discussed by Messrs. Edney and Thomas till about the hour of adjournment.

Mr. Turner has called the *Standard's* Reporter to task for the two past days in the Senate. The truth is, Mr. T. finds he has made a grave mistake in his conduct on Saturday last, and desires now to get out of it. He gains nothing by his attack on the reporter, who is sustained by nine-tenths of the Senate.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The business of the morning session to-day was very near nothing—one bill alone, by Mr. Thompson, to extend the corporate limits of the town of Goldsboro.

The House, in committee of the whole, discussed the Danville Connection. Messrs. Settle and Walker spoke for it, and Messrs. Bridgers and Ward against it. The discussion took a wide range, going over the whole history of North Carolina internal improvements.

The House met again at 7 o'clock. The Danville Connection was postponed till to-morrow.

The bill to charter a Company to construct a Railroad from the Coal Fields or Deep River to some point on the North Carolina Railroad—Mr. Taylor spoke at length upon the wealth of the valley of Deep River—Several amendments were introduced, to fix the terminal point, but were rejected. The bill is merely a charter. Passed by yeas, 103; nays, 35.

A bill to amend the charter of the Wilmington and Manchester Railroad was then taken up and discussed at some length. Opposition was made to that part of the bill allowing the creation of preferred stock, but it was not stricken out. Mr. D. F. Caldwell had always opposed the issue of State bonds, in his opinion, they always went into the hands of bankers and capitalists. Mr. Bryan, of New Hanover, then showed the reasons for the introduction of the bill, and explained matters connected with the affairs of the Road. Mr. Caldwell seems to have withdrawn his objections, as he voted for the bill. Passed—yeas 70; nays, 35.

House adjourned.

RALEIGH, JAN. 15, 1899.

SENATE.—The Bill to incorporate the Wilmington Hotel Company passed its second and third readings and was passed.

Quite a number of private bills were passed on, but none of general or local interest.

In the HOUSE, to-day, they did some business in introducing Bills.

Mr. Stanford, a Bill to incorporate the Warsaw and Kenansville Railroad Company.

Mr. Speer, a Bill to amend the Constitution concerning capitation tax.

Mr. Bryan, of Craven, a Bill to take up free negroes traveling from one county to another.

Mr. Foy, a Bill to change the time of meeting of the General Assembly.

The House then went into committee of the whole on the Danville Connection. A short running debate between several of the members, then Mr. Morehead occupied the time for an hour and three-quarters in a decidedly able speech. The committee then rose, and some Bills were taken up on their 2d reading.

A Bill to amend the charter of the Fayetteville and Coalfields Road so as to make them extend their line through Sampson, Duplin and Onslow to Beaufort, was indefinitely postponed. It is Mr. Foy's Bill.

A Bill to incorporate the Black Swamp Navigation Company was passed.

The House this morning recited the resolution for night sessions, but agreed to sit without adjournment at 3 o'clock.

FINE SKATING AT PHILADELPHIA.—It is stated that for a number of years the Philadelphia skaters have not enjoyed such fine skating on the Schuylkill, as on Tuesday, January 11th, they did.

About 3 o'clock in the afternoon there were in eight or ten thousand skaters, fitting about like so many snowflakes upon the wing. The ice was nearly as smooth as a mirror, and presented an unbroken sheet as far as the eye could reach. From the dam nearly up to the falls the skaters coursed back and forth, making the cold air ring with a style of laughter that indicated the liveliest enjoyment. Among the multitude were recognized numerous dignified merchants, legging away in a style that would have done honor to so many school boys, while members of the bar, doctors, etc., could be counted by dozens. We looked for Col. Page, but didn't see him. Col. Page is the champion skater of this city—perhaps of the Union. Col. Page cannot, perhaps, cut a single so naturally that it can fly away, but he can cut a good single backward and forward whose performance is the most difficult that can be attempted.

The steamer *Weser*, from New York, has returned to Cape Fear, and will leave for New York on Wednesday next.

The *Weser* is a fine ship, and has a fine crew. The ship was built at New York, and is a fine specimen of the modern ship.

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